/15 cont./

433 241 sweet potatoes; cotton grows everywhere. tomatoes and garlic mature the year round. and in the gardens lettuce. cabbage. cauliflower. and peppers create the beauty of a spot. without taking into account the gastronomic advantages. Even the peach trees would yield fine fruits. but they suffer much from the black butterflies. which damage them before they ripen.

Without work the land will produce only briars and brambles. and /16/ as long as there are only Chiriguano and cattle ranches here. progress will be slight and the population sparse. because the Indian has no ambition. and life is relatively inexpensive; the whites prosper by taking good care of their livestock. and no greater fertility can be obtained from the land because the holdings of a few families are very extensive and do not facilitate the residence of numerous renters. who do not always give good results nor do all come or ask to rent for farming alone. All of them want to get rich easily and quickly. and the best way is to raise stock. the result of which is that great areas of briars and brambles exist.

[57 11 15]

Flora

• 13 In the course of this hasty description I have noted that in Chiriguano country atmospheric changes are very sudden. but it has been noted that the region is quite fertile when it is watered by the rains or by irrigation ditches. because small rivers are plentiful. particularly in the mountainous region. and an occasional river of some size bathes the adjacent territories with its abundant waters.

There are many hills. pampas. and valleys. and for this reason every kind of climate may be found in this territory. [37] There are in fact oppressive heat. intense cold. and a temperate climate. thus making it possible to find land for every product from the lowly gourd to the savory chirimoya. from the ubiquitous maize to wheat. rice. and barley. from the mulberry /morus/. which grows spontaneously. to the rich grape. whose bunches reach weights of three and four libras.

6: Nordenskiöld--4 I-5 (1908-1909) 1912 SF10 Chiriguano SF10
Tapiete SF13
Chané SF8

/153 cont./

In the dry season the wind heaps large dunes along the banks of the river. After it has left the mountains, it does not receive a tributary. The Río Parapití is very wide, but never deep. During the driest period its bed is transformed into a sand desert where the wind plays with the fine river sand. When it storms, the sand is swept across the bottom of the river. If one wishes to cross it on such days, one may perhaps not get his feet wet, but he must shield his eyes.

The Río Parapití is rich in fish, but the fish are tiny. The banks are quite fertile, but inasmuch as they are flooded during the rainy season, the harvests are easily lost. Often in the dry season everything is wasted by the scorching droughts. The locusts, too, hawk about in these regions and leave behind in their own unappetizing bodies a poor substitute for what they have destroyed.

On the Río Parapití, high up in the mountains, live the Quichua Indians, then come the Chiriguano, beyond them, near the river, the Tapiete, also called Yanaygua, then the Chané, and finally, in the unknown wilderness, the Tsirakua Indians.

My first visit on the Río Parapití was paid to Father Carmelo, who had a small mission station there among the Chiriguano. I became very fond of this monk. /154/ He had such confidence-inspiring friendliness. He is one of the missionaries who are needed here, people who desire and are able to sacrifice themselves for others, who show an equally great friendship toward all.

I now continued along the Río Parapití to Itiyuro on the north bank of the river. The Tapiete live opposite Itiyuro. I shall later describe a visit that I made to them.

At Itiyuro I met the first Chané, or, as they are called here, Tapuy. I then visited most of their villages. I made the acquaintance especially of some of their storytellers, of whom Beriayu, the nephew of the last great chief, Aringui, became my good friend.

From the lower Río Parapití I proceeded by way of Charagua, a village inhabited almost exclusively by whites, to the Caipipendi valley, where I stayed with the Chiriguano chief Tarairi.

/156 cont./

One might be surprised that a person would want to live in this treeless valley, where one finds only salty, dirty water, but in the Caipipendi valley one need not drink water, for here the maize yields magnificent harvests and there is never a shortage of maize beer. The inhabitants of the Caipipendi valley are wealthy, and if there is famine in other regions, the Indians come from afar to these kinnmen, in order to barter their valuables for maize.

For the collector, too, it is a magnificent valley. We found silver ornaments, silver bowls, finely carved musical instruments, and many other rare articles in this ethnographer's paradise. Stone axes, ruins, diggings /Grabfelder/ of various peoples prove that the Caipipendi valley has long been highly prized by the Indians.

The water has cut deeply into this valley. In the rainy season it probably rains there too.

From Caipipendi I returned over the mountains, through a /155/ valley famous for its hot springs and its beauty, to Charagua, to continue then along the Andes in the direction of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

It was October, 1908. Not quite a year later, in July, 1909, I again visited the Chaco, after extensive river journeys far beyond, on the border of Brazil. In another book I shall describe these journeys on large, navigable rivers and through virgin forests whose luxuriant green is overpowering.

From Santa Cruz de la Sierra I returned, as was said, to the Chaco in July, 1909. I then traveled first of all by way of the Rio Grande to the Rio Parapiti, chiefly to visit my friend Beltrayu.

The Rio Grande is the southernmost tributary of the Amazon River. It comes from the highest mountains of the Andes and flows past Sucre, a city that has long contended with the city of La Paz for the rank of capital of Bolivia. When it emerges from the mountains, it is a roaring, mighty river. Farther down it has an extremely changeable, very little known course. North of Santa Cruz de la Sierra the Rio Grande receives the Rio

/160 cont./ Cc 13

The region settled by the Chiriguano and Chané Indians is really very extensive. It is varied in nature, from luxuriant virgin forests to extremely arid valleys and plains poor in vegetation. It is in part very mountainous, but the Chiriguano and Chané are not mountain people. They stay down in the valleys and do not climb up to the peaks and plateaus, like the Quichua Indians.

Animal life in these regions is poor, in fact, very poor. A hunting people could never live there. Now and then a roebuck, a wild pig, a few ostriches, that is all one sees in the way of big game. Bird life, too, is very poor. /161/ The number of lakes is very small, and they are no larger than what we would call pools in Europe. On the Rio Parapiti one sees quite a large number of white egrets (1), famous for

1. Ardea.

their valuable feathers. With regard to wood fowl, only the chicken called "pavas" (2) contributes to the diet. Occasionally

2. Penelope.

one sees a large-billed "toucan" (3). Sleek pigeons, fattened

3. Rhamphastus.

on maize, often live in masses in the fields of the Indians. In the Rio Pilcomayo there is a great abundance of fish; in the little rivers the fish are small and poor. The Indians who live in these regions have to be farmers, and they are maize farmers to the highest degree. For them maize is food, drink, pleasure, everything!

I have no adventures to report from among these Indians. Everyone may travel unharmed among them. The greatest sorrow of the ethnographer is that he is unable to collect all the interesting and old things that he sees there. One cannot take everything home.